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Adventures Of a Girl Reporter

By Michael Harris

Michele Ray, who is beautiful, intrepid and intense, was in San Francisco yesterday to discuss two grim adventure stories her seven months in Vietnam and a hectic seven weeks in Bolivia tracing the story of the last days of Ernesto (Che) Guevara, the Cuban revolutionary.

Mme. Ray spent three weeks as a captive of the Viet Cong a year ago and observed after the experience, "If I were a Vietnamese, I would be a Viet Cong girl."

In Bolivia she concluded that Guevara's death came on direct orders from a CIA agent whom she identified as a native of Puerto Rico.

FILM

The tall, auburn haired correspondent provided some of the film and part of the commentary in "Far From Vietnam," a work by six French directors expressing their support of the North Vietnamese. The film opened last night at the Surf Theater in San Francisco and the Albany Theater in the East Bay.

"I am against the war," Mme. Ray said in an interview. "I wrote a book about Vietnam and dedicated it to both the Viet Cong and the GIs — because you can be against American policy in Vietnam even if you are not against the GIs."

CAPTURE

Her observations grew out of seven months as a freelance correspondent in Vietnam for various French publications. What lifted her into worldwide prominence was her decision to set out of Saigon into the countryside by herself. She was captured by three Viet Cong riflemen when her car was punctured by a flat tire.



CORRESPONDENT MICHELE RAY
From Vietnam to Bolivia

"Fifteen minutes after I was captured I was no longer afraid," Mme. Ray said.

"The Viet Cong have a very small organization, and they do not kill without reason. They told me they would keep me long enough to see if I were really a reporter, and I am sure that if I had been American instead of French, I would have been treated the same."

She traveled with her captors for three weeks, losing 12 pounds during the experience.

Like several other correspondents in Bolivia, Mme. Ray concluded that Guevara was not killed in combat but was deliberately executed. In an article in the March issue of Ramparts, due for publication next week, she gives her reconstruction of Guevara's death in the isolated village of La Higuera.

Mme. Ray later discussed her findings with Fidel Castro when she went to Havana for a month-long congress of intellectuals. The two talked for about four hours.

"I am a big admirer of Castro — more for the job he did after the revolution than for the revolution itself," she said.

P. Ray, Michele
Guevara, Che
C.I.A. 4 - Bolivia
Sec. 4.01.24 Far from
Vietnam